

### REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Pending claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-21, 23-26, and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 4 and 22 are canceled by the foregoing amendment and new claim 31 is added.

Pending claims 4, 9, 14, 22, and 27 stand objected to but are indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In accordance with the foregoing Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 4, such that amended claim 1 corresponds to claim 4 rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3, and 5-18 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. Similarly, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 22, such that amended claim 19 corresponds to claim 22 rewritten in independent form. Claims 20, 21, and 23-30 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 19. Additionally, new claim 31 corresponds to claim 9 rewritten in independent form.

In view of the foregoing Amendment, it is submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. Early action and  
allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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